



DFIRS NEWS

Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

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Message from the Program Manager

Due to military obligations over the past months things have been very hectic. I appreciate all the assistance and understanding from everyone. If you have outstanding requests or require assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

100% Participation Achieved; New Goals Set

Now that all departments are participating in DFIRS, emphasis is being placed on timely and quality data gathering and reporting.

Remember all incidents are due by the 10th of the following month. For example, any incident that occurs in July 2003 is due at the SFMO by the 10th of August.

Internal Incident Reports

Even if your department did not receive an incident number from a 911 center, please remember to record any assistance you provided to the public. To enter incidents that a 911 incident number was not obtained for simply create a unique internal number for the incident number. A suggested numbering scheme would be to use your station number followed by a year specific sequential number. For example, Indian River would record their first 2003 non-911 incident report as Incident #8003001.

Remember incident reporting is a helpful method for accurately recording the demands placed on the fire service.

Crucial* Coding Information

The Systems Committee of the National Fire Information Council recently provided a ruling for the following question:

“How should a fire incident when the fire is out prior to the arrival of the fire department be code?”

Answer:

The incident type would be a fire just as it would be as if the fire is still burning (for example, a building fire is an

incident type 111). The actions taken would be investigate or other post fire extinguishment actions.

**Please make note of this change and notify individuals responsible for incident reporting.*

Other Coding Questions

“If I give aid to a department and the incident has civilian casualties due to fire do I fill out the civilian casualty module?”

Answer:

- **NO** - It is critical to the reporting system that the aid-**receiving** department always report the total number of **civilian casualties** associated with the incident.
- Each department reports the details on its own **fire service** casualties

“How should a rekindle be reported?”

Answer:

The definition of “rekindle” is “The redevelopment of a fire; after, it was thought to have been extinguished by the original fire service response.” For NFIRS purposes, a rekindle should be treated as a separate incident.

“What is the proper coding when Fire Department #1 fills in at Fire Department #2?”

Answer:

When Fire Department #1 fills in at Fire Department #2, the only incident report created by Fire Department #1 is for an incident type of 571 (Cover assignment, assist other fire agency such as standby at a fire station or move-up). That report should indicate that mutual aid or automatic aid was given. If fire department #1 responds to an alarm while on this cover assignment, they would **not** complete any additional report (see next question).

Fire Facts...

The U.S. has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world at 13.4¹ deaths per million population.

Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.

84 percent of all fire deaths (excluding 9-11 deaths) occurred in residences.

Over 1.7 million fires were reported. Many others went unreported, causing additional injuries and property loss.

¹ This estimate does not reflect the events of September 11, 2001. The fire death rate including the results of 9/11 is 22.1 civilian deaths per million population.

Source: National Fire Protection Association 2001 Fire Loss in the U.S. and USFA's Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2001

“While covering a fire station at Fire Department #2, Fire Department #1 responds to an incident within Fire Department #2’s area of responsibility. How would this be reported?”

Answer:

Fire Department #2 is responsible for generating a full report indicating mutual aid was received from Fire Department #1. Fire Department #1 could collect the information and pass it on to Fire Department #2.

For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or crystal.beach@state.de.us

PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS